Cost Escalation in the Construction/ Repair of Nuclear Power Plants

2108. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a large scale escalation in the cost of construction/repair of our nuclear power plants and many of these have been lying unserviceable for a long period; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's planning in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) There has been escalation in the cost of nuclear power projects due, among others, to longer gestation period because of the compulsion of having to rely exclusively on indigenous technology necessistated by the Technology Central Regime on the part of the nuclear powers and the principled stand taken by the Country on nuclear non-proliferation treaty. All the nuclear power reactors installed in the Country, except Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) Units 1 & 2, are operting satisfacorily. The performance of Unit-1 of RAPS which is shut-down has been affected due to equipment related problems and this unit is expected to be restarted by mid-1997. RAPS Unit 2, which is shut-down for en-masse coolant channel replacement and upgradation of systems, is expected to be restarted by mid-1998. In the light of experience gained and the know-how and expertise developed in the country, it is now possible to commission a 220 MWe PHWR power station in 87 months time From the first pour of concrete.

Assistance to N.E. Region Under CAPART

2109. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given under different schemes by CAPART in the North-Eastem Region, State-wise;

(b) the names of NGOs, amount of financial assistance given, till now, in the North-East Region, State-wise; and

(c) the present practice of supervision and monitoring of their works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Generation and Supply of Electricity in Punjab

2110. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of electricity generated in Punjab during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the quantum of power provided to Punjab by the Power plants in the State during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for sufficient supply of electricity in the State?